THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI) have been entrusted with the Study on 'History and Transformation of the Oil Coordination Committee' which would also cover possible evolution of OCC as the Regulator for downstream oil industry. The final report of TERI is awaited.

Number of LPG Agencies in Bihar

415. SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of LPG distributing agencies operating in Banka, Bhagalpur, Godda and Deoghar districts of Bihar;

(b) the details of LPG distributing agencies allotted to persons belonging to SC/ST communities;

(c) if no such agencies exist, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when Government are likely to provide LPG distributing agencies to SC/ ST people in the above districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Details of existing LPG distributorships and the number under SC/ST category in Banka, Bhagalpur, Godda and Deoghar districts of Bihar as on 1.10.1997 are indicated below:

	Total	SC	ST
Banka	01	—	—
Bhagalpur	04	—	—
Godda	—	—	—
Deoghar	02	01	01
TOTAL:	07	01	01

(c) Does not arise.

(d) In accordance with the existing policy, 25% dealerships/distributorships allotted through normal selection procedure are reserved for SC/ST category on statewise basis as per 100 point roster.

गैस अथारिटी ऑफ इंडिया लि० द्वारा प्रोपेन की बिक्री

416. **श्री अजीत जोगी:**
श्री शमशेर सिंह सुरजेवाला:

क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि गैस अथारिटी ऑफ इंडिया द्वारा प्रोपेन की बिक्री मंत्रालय द्वारा निर्धारित किए गए मूल्य से काफी कम मूल्य पर की जा रही है जिसके परिणामस्वरूप गैस अथारिटी को 22 लाख रुपये प्रतिदिन की हानि हो रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में मंत्रालय द्वारा की जा रही कार्यवाई क्या है; और

(ग) भ्रष्टाचार के लिए दोषी पाए गए लोगों के विरुद्ध की गई कार्रवाई क्या है?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री टी० आर० बालू): (क) जी नहीं। पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय के निर्देशानुसार गेल द्वारा निर्धारित प्रोपेन का मूल्य सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की तेल कंपनियों की थोक एल पी जी के मूल्य की तुलना में 10 प्रतिशत कम दर पर है। गेल को प्रोपेन की बिक्री के कारण कोई घाटा नहीं हो रहा है।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

Gas supply to Pipavav Power Project

417. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister opf PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have made any commitment

to allocate Tapti Gas to Pipavav Power Project at any stage;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the commitment made earlier has not been adhered to by Government so far;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) how Government propose to make any other arrangement for this power project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) A decision to allocate Tapti gas to the Pipavav power project was taken along with the decision to feed Gandhar gas into the HBJ pipeline.

(c) and (d) It was subsequently decided to allocate Gandhar gas to two power projects in Gujarat and to take Tapti gas to Hazira to meet existing commitments at Hazira and along the HBJ pipeline.

(e) The gas projected to be available in Gujarat is fully allocated. Supply of gas to Pipavav power project can be considered only when the availability of gas improves.

Compensation paid to Victims of vizag fire accident

418 SHRI RAM GAPAL YADAV:
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:
SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the causes of the fire accident which took place in the Oil Refinery of Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) at Vizag;

(b) the number of people killed and injured in that fire accident;

(c) the compensation and suitable rehabilitation measures adopted for the next kith and kin of the people who were killed and the injured persons; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The fire accident in HPCL, Vizag Refinery/Marketing Terminal on 14th September, 1997 resulted in the death of 60 persons, including 14 of HPCL, injuries to 10 besides financial loss of about Rs. 80 crore. The Government have set up a Commission under Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 to enquire into this accident. The Commission has been asked to submit its Report within a period of three months.

(c) and (d) The following ex-gratia payment has been made by the HPCL, in coordination with District Administration:—

Ex-gratia payment per deceased	: Rs. 2 lakh
Immediate expenses per deceased for funeral	: Rs. 10,000/-
Injured	: Rs. 10,000/-
Seriously injured	: Rs. 25,000/-

The above payments are in addition to the statutory amount payable. Superannuation Benefit fund Scheme, Group Personnel Accident Insurance and Group Saving Linked Insurance Scheme are also being extended to the HPCL deceased employees beneficiaries as applicable under these schemes. Out of 14 deceased employees of the Corporation, the legal heirs who have opted for employment would be provided employment if otherwise eligible by the HPCL. As regards rehabilitation measures for the deceased workmen of the contractor, the contractors have been asked by HPCL to provide suitable employment to the next of kin of the deceased.